Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A method for manufacturing an optical connector ~~assembly~~ achieving a mechanical coupling, comprising:

embedding a length of at least one optical fiber in a body to form an assembly;

~~polishing~~ at a first end of said assembly, removing a portion of the assembly to provide a beveled surface on a corresponding first end of said at least one optical fiber at which light is reflected for a side coupling;

~~polishing~~ at ~~least~~ a portion of a side of said assembly near said first end, creating an optical surface to provide a flat coupling surface for said side coupling;

~~polishing~~ at a second end of said assembly, removing a portion of the assembly to provide a flat abutment surface including a corresponding second end of said at least one optical fiber;

providing at said second end of said assembly a mating structure for precision connecting with a complementary connector ~~ferrule~~ in which ~~at least one complementary~~ an optical waveguide is end-coupled with ~~each one of~~ said at least one optical fiber.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one optical fiber comprises a plurality of optical fibers arranged parallel to one another with a predetermined spacing arrangement.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said ~~polishing at least a portion of a side of said assembly~~ creating an optical surface results in a

partial removal of a cladding of said optical fibers on said side of the assembly near said first end.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising providing a package of optoelectronic elements disposed along a line, said package having a single planar window, positioning said window on said coupling surface to align said elements with said optical fibers, and bonding said window to said coupling surface such that said optoelectronic elements are coupled with said optical fibers in a one-to-one manner.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said embedding comprises:

providing at least one fiber V-groove in said ~~assembly~~ body, each said V-groove adapted for receiving one said optical fiber;

inserting an optical fiber in each of the at least one fiber V-groove;

providing a coating substance over at least one part of said body ~~assembly~~, in the vicinity of the at least one fiber V-groove; and

sealing the optical fiber in each of the at least one fiber V-groove provided in the body ~~assembly~~ using the coating substance and a flattened material provided over said ~~assembly surface~~ body to create a sealed assembly.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said providing said mating structure comprises:

providing at the second ~~a first~~ end of the assembly at least two alignment V-grooves parallel to said at least one fiber V-groove, at least one of the at least two alignment V-grooves being adapted to receive a dowel;

wherein the combination of each alignment V-groove with a corresponding alignment V-groove provides said precision connecting.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein a core of said optical fiber is in a same plane as axes of said alignment V-grooves.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

a cover member is bonded over said alignment V-grooves;

said at least one optical fiber comprises a plurality of optical fibers arranged parallel to one another;

said cover member comprises opposed alignment V-grooves positioned opposite said alignment V-grooves of said assembly;

said bonding of said cover member comprises inserting dowel pins in said alignment V-grooves whereby said cover member is spaced from said assembly with said optical fibers being centered at said second end in a plane extending through an axis of said dowel pins, and positioning said cover member inset from said second end,

whereby said cover member does not interfere with use of said second end for precision abutment coupling with said complementary ferrule.

Claim 9 (original): The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said alignment V-grooves and said opposed alignment V-grooves provide a four-point connection with said dowel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said ~~polishing at least a portion of said side of said assembly~~ creating an optical surface results in a partial removal of a cladding of said optical fibers on said side of said assembly near said first end.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 8 ~~5~~, further comprising the step of ~~polishing~~removing ~~away~~ said flattened material on said sealed assembly before said bonding said cover member.

Claim 12 (original): The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said flattened material is transparent, further comprising the step of buffing at least said coupling surfaces of said assembly on said flattened material.

Claim 13 (original): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the coating substance is light activated, further comprising the step of light activating the coating substance through said flattened material.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bevel surface is at approximately 45 degrees with respect to said optical fiber.

Claim 15 (original): The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one fiber V-groove are etched in silicon.

Claim 16 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the assembly is made using a plastic-molding technique.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the assembly is made using a plastic-molding technique, said optical fibers being positioned in said assembly closer to said side near said first end than at said second end, said ~~polishing~~ creating an optical surface at ~~least~~ a portion of a side of said assembly near the first end comprising polishing evenly all of said side so as to remove said cladding at said first end only.

Claim 18 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bevel surface is coated with a reflective substance.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An optical coupling assembly comprising:

a plurality of optical fibers embedded in a parallel arrangement in a body having a beveled end, a substantially flat side coupling surface near said beveled

end and an opposite connector end, light being coupled between said coupling surface, said beveled end and said optical fibers;

a package of optoelectronic elements disposed along a line, said package having a single planar window bonded to said coupling surface such that said optoelectronic elements are coupled with said optical fibers in a one-to-one manner; and

a precision end-couple ferrule member provided at said connector end of said body for guiding a complementary ferrule member to end-couple fiber-to-fiber said plurality of optical fibers at said connector end.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An optical coupling assembly comprising:

a plurality of optical fibers embedded in a parallel arrangement in a body having a connector end;

at least two alignment V-grooves in said body at said connector end;

a cover member having corresponding opposite alignment V-grooves;

at least two dowel pins bonded in said alignment V-grooves and connecting said cover member to said body, said dowel pins and said V-grooves being dimensioned such that said cover member is spaced from said body with said cover member inset from said connector end,

wherein said dowel pins are adapted for guiding a complementary ferrule member to end-couple fiber-to-fiber said plurality of optical fibers at said connector end.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The assembly as claimed in claim 20, wherein said body has a beveled end opposite said connector end, light being coupled between a side coupling surface of said body, said beveled end and said optical fibers.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The assembly as claimed in claim 21, wherein a part of a cladding of said optical fibers is removed at least near said beveled end to improve light coupling.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The assembly as claimed in claim 20, wherein said optical fibers are centered at said connector end in a plane extending through an axis of said dowel pins.

Claim 24 (new): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said removing a portion of said assembly comprises polishing said portion.

Claim 25 (new): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said creating an optical surface at a portion of a side of the assembly comprises polishing said portion.